

**House Study Bill 145 - Introduced**

SENATE/HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED GOVERNOR'S BILL)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act creating an Iowa preschool scholarship program for  
2 four-year-old children, repealing the statewide preschool  
3 program for four-year-old children, and including effective  
4 date and applicability provisions.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

DIVISION I

STATEWIDE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM FOR FOUR-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN

Section 1. Section 237A.21, subsection 3, paragraph p, Code 2011, is amended to read as follows:

*p.* One person who is part of a local program implementing the statewide preschool program for four-year-old children under chapter ~~256C~~ 256J.

Sec. 2. Section 237A.22, subsection 1, paragraph f, Code 2011, is amended to read as follows:

*f.* Make recommendations for improving collaborations between the child care programs involving the department and programs supporting the education and development of young children including but not limited to the federal head start program, ~~the statewide preschool program for four-year-old children~~ and the early childhood, at-risk, and other early education programs administered by the department of education.

Sec. 3. Section 256.11, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code 2011, is amended to read as follows:

*c.* For the purposes of this subsection, "*prekindergarten program*" includes but is not limited to a school district's implementation of the preschool program established pursuant to chapter ~~256C~~ 256J.

Sec. 4. Section 257.16, subsection 1, Code 2011, is amended to read as follows:

1. There is appropriated each year from the general fund of the state an amount necessary to pay the foundation aid under this chapter, ~~the preschool foundation aid under chapter 256C~~, supplementary aid under section 257.4, subsection 2, and adjusted additional property tax levy aid under section 257.15, subsection 4.

Sec. 5. Section 272.2, subsection 18, Code 2011, is amended to read as follows:

18. May adopt rules for practitioners who are not eligible for a statement of professional recognition under subsection 10, but have received a baccalaureate degree and provide a

1 service to students at any or all levels from prekindergarten  
2 through grade twelve for a school district, accredited  
3 nonpublic school, area education agency, or preschool program  
4 established pursuant to chapter ~~256C~~ 256J.

5 Sec. 6. Section 285.1, subsection 1, paragraph a,  
6 subparagraph (3), Code 2011, is amended to read as follows:

7 (3) Children attending prekindergarten programs offered or  
8 sponsored by the district or nonpublic school and approved by  
9 the department of education or department of human services  
10 or children participating in preschool in an approved local  
11 program under chapter ~~256C~~ 256J may be provided transportation  
12 services. However, transportation services provided to  
13 nonpublic school children are not eligible for reimbursement  
14 under this chapter.

15 Sec. 7. REPEAL. Chapter 256C, Code 2011, is repealed.

16 Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY. This division of  
17 this Act takes effect July 1, 2011, and applies to budget years  
18 beginning on or after July 1, 2011.

19 DIVISION II

20 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM FOR FOUR-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN

21 Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. **256J.1 Definitions.**

22 As used in this chapter:

23 1. "*Department*" means the department of education.

24 2. "*Director*" means the director of the department of  
25 education.

26 3. "*Eligible school district*" or "*school district*" means  
27 a school corporation organized under chapter 274 that meets  
28 the requirements of section 256J.3, subsection 4, and has been  
29 approved by the department to implement preschool programs as  
30 provided in this chapter.

31 4. "*Preschool scholarship*" means the state funding allocated  
32 to school districts to pay tuition for eligible children  
33 enrolled in preschool programs implemented pursuant to this  
34 chapter.

35 5. "*Private education partner*" means a private preschool

1 provider that may submit claims for reimbursement to a school  
2 district for providing high-quality preschool instruction to  
3 four-year-old children receiving scholarships in accordance  
4 with this chapter.

5 6. "State board" means the state board of education.

6 Sec. 10. NEW SECTION. 256J.2 **Preschool program for**  
7 **four-year-old children — scholarships — purpose.**

8 1. A preschool program for four-year-old children is  
9 established in the department to provide an opportunity for  
10 all eligible children, including economically disadvantaged  
11 children, to enter school ready to learn. The purpose  
12 of the preschool scholarship program shall be to provide  
13 scholarships to pay for eligible four-year-old children to  
14 attend high-quality preschool provided by school districts or  
15 private education partners.

16 2. The state board shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter  
17 17A, and may adopt emergency rules under section 17A.4,  
18 subsection 3, and section 17A.5, subsection 2, paragraph "b", as  
19 necessary to implement this chapter.

20 Sec. 11. NEW SECTION. 256J.3 **Preschool program**  
21 **requirements.**

22 1. *Eligible children.* A child who is a resident of Iowa  
23 and is four years of age on or before September 15 of a school  
24 year is eligible to enroll, based on order of registration, in  
25 a preschool program implemented pursuant to this chapter and  
26 may be eligible for a preschool scholarship based upon the most  
27 current sliding tuition scale determined and published by the  
28 department in accordance with subsection 5. A school district  
29 approved to participate in the preschool program pursuant  
30 to this chapter may enroll a younger child in the preschool  
31 program if space is available; however, the child shall not  
32 be counted in the preschool enrollment count for preschool  
33 scholarship funding purposes under section 256J.5.

34 a. A family may choose to enroll the family's four-year-  
35 old child in an approved school district preschool program or a

1 preschool program implemented by a private education partner.  
2 Families shall complete all enrollment requirements, including  
3 but not limited to income verification.

4 *b.* A school district or a private education partner may  
5 charge tuition for children participating in the preschool  
6 program, but shall not charge more for tuition than the amount  
7 determined and published by the department. All families  
8 enrolling eligible children are required to pay tuition based  
9 on income and the most current sliding tuition scale determined  
10 and published by the department.

11 *2. Teacher requirements.*

12 *a.* An individual serving as a preschool teacher in the  
13 preschool program for four-year-old children shall be employed  
14 by or under contract with the approved school district or by a  
15 private education partner located within the approved school  
16 district's boundaries and shall meet one of the following  
17 qualifications:

18 (1) The individual is appropriately licensed under chapter  
19 272 and meets the requirements of chapter 284.

20 (2) The individual possesses, or is working toward  
21 obtaining within two years of starting employment under this  
22 subsection, an early childhood certificate of eligibility  
23 issued under chapter 272, and meets either of the following  
24 conditions:

25 (a) Holds a bachelor's or graduate degree from an accredited  
26 college or university.

27 (b) Holds an associate of arts degree and is working  
28 toward obtaining a bachelor's degree within three years. This  
29 subparagraph division (b) is repealed August 31, 2014.

30 *b.* A preschool teacher in an approved preschool program  
31 shall collaborate with other agencies, organizations, and  
32 boards in the community to further the program's capacity to  
33 meet the diverse needs of the children enrolled in the program  
34 and the families of the children, such as needs for early  
35 care, health, and human services. In addition, the approved

1 preschool program shall work to maintain relationships with  
2 each child's family in order to enhance the child's development  
3 in all settings by collaborating with providers of parent  
4 education and family support opportunities.

5 3. *Program requirements — program approval.* The state board  
6 shall adopt rules to further define the following preschool  
7 program requirements, which shall be used to determine whether  
8 or not a local program implemented by a school district or  
9 private education partner qualifies for approval to implement a  
10 preschool program:

11 a. Maximum and minimum teacher-to-child ratios and class  
12 sizes.

13 b. Applicable state and federal program standards.

14 c. Student learning standards.

15 d. Applicable comprehensive statewide child assessment  
16 determined by the department.

17 e. Provisions for the integration of children from other  
18 state and federally funded preschools.

19 f. Collaboration with participating families, early care  
20 providers, and community partners including but not limited  
21 to early childhood Iowa area boards, head start programs,  
22 shared visions, licensed child care centers, registered child  
23 development homes, early childhood special education programs,  
24 services funded by Tit. I of the federal Elementary and  
25 Secondary Education Act of 1965, and family support programs.

26 g. A minimum of ten hours per week, thirty-four weeks per  
27 year, of instruction delivered on the skills and knowledge  
28 included in the student learning standards developed for the  
29 preschool program.

30 h. Family involvement in the preschool program.

31 i. Provision for ensuring that children receiving care from  
32 other child care arrangements can participate in the preschool  
33 program with minimal disruption due to transportation and  
34 movement from one site to another.

35 4. *School district requirements.* The state board shall

1 adopt rules to further define the following requirements for  
2 school districts implementing a preschool program pursuant to  
3 this chapter:

4     *a.* Collect documentation of school district and private  
5 education partner readiness to meet program requirements. The  
6 school district shall submit documentation to the department  
7 that demonstrates that the school district contacted all  
8 known potential private education partners within the school  
9 district, including but not limited to, and only as applicable,  
10 accredited nonpublic schools and faith-based preschools,  
11 the early childhood Iowa area board, the federal head start  
12 program, shared visions and other programs provided under the  
13 auspices of the child development coordinating council, and  
14 center-based providers of child care services.

15     *b.* Collaborate with all approved high-quality preschool  
16 program sites in the district to better serve children enrolled  
17 in the preschool program in the following ways:

18         (1) Extending the day, for children eligible for preschool  
19 scholarships, through other state funding and federal funding,  
20 including but not limited to funding available through early  
21 childhood Iowa area boards, federal head start programs, shared  
22 visions and other programs provided under the auspices of the  
23 child development coordinating council, licensed child care  
24 centers, registered child development homes, early childhood  
25 special education programs, services funded by Tit. I of the  
26 federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and  
27 family support programs.

28         (2) Promoting family involvement through family support  
29 programs as well as district programs.

30     *c.* Participate in data collection and performance  
31 measurement processes and reporting, including reporting fall  
32 and spring applicable comprehensive statewide child assessment  
33 data as specified by the department.

34     *d.* Identify eligible children through targeted outreach to  
35 all families in partnership with the early childhood Iowa area

1 board.

2 e. Collect information regarding and verify family income to  
3 implement the sliding tuition scale determined and published by  
4 the department in accordance with subsection 5.

5 f. Address professional development for school district  
6 preschool teachers in the school district's professional  
7 development plan implemented in accordance with section 284.6.

8 g. Collaborate with private education partners to provide a  
9 coordinated system of appropriate professional development for  
10 preschool teachers and staff employed in the preschool program.

11 h. Pay only those claims submitted by the school district's  
12 private education partners which are verified by the process  
13 set forth in section 279.29.

14 5. *Department requirements.* The department shall do the  
15 following:

16 a. Implement an application and approval process for school  
17 district participation in the preschool program that includes  
18 but is not limited to the enrollment requirements provided  
19 under subsection 1.

20 b. Track the progress of all children served by a school  
21 district preschool program and by the school district's private  
22 education partners and track the children's performance in  
23 elementary and secondary education.

24 c. Implement procedures to monitor the quality of the  
25 programming provided under the preschool program at all school  
26 district and private education partner sites.

27 d. Determine a statewide comprehensive child assessment to  
28 measure child outcomes for all children participating in the  
29 preschool program at school districts and private education  
30 partner sites.

31 e. Submit an annual report to the governor, the general  
32 assembly, the early childhood Iowa state board, and the child  
33 development coordinating council.

34 (1) The early childhood Iowa state board and the child  
35 development coordinating council shall advise the department

1 regarding collaboration of high-quality preschool programs for  
2 eligible children.

3 (2) The early childhood Iowa state board shall promote  
4 the preschool program in local communities to increase family  
5 awareness of quality preschool programs and scholarship  
6 opportunities.

7 (3) The early childhood Iowa area boards shall collaborate  
8 with school districts and their private education partners to  
9 strengthen preschool quality.

10 *f.* Develop a statewide list of approved school district  
11 and private education partner preschool programs and publish  
12 the list on its website. The list shall include information  
13 about preschool scholarships and the sliding tuition scale in  
14 addition to other information for families.

15 *g.* Develop and review annually a sliding tuition scale for  
16 purposes of granting preschool program scholarships to families  
17 whose incomes are at or below three hundred percent of the  
18 federal poverty level as defined by the most recently revised  
19 poverty income guidelines published by the United States  
20 department of health and human services.

21 Sec. 12. NEW SECTION. 256J.4 Funding provisions —  
22 enrollment.

23 1. *General.*

24 *a.* State funding provided for preschool scholarships shall  
25 be allocated to school districts for each school year based  
26 upon the amount appropriated and the funding formula set forth  
27 in section 256J.5.

28 *b.* Except as otherwise provided in chapter 298A, a school  
29 district approved to participate in the preschool program may  
30 authorize expenditures for the school district's preschool  
31 programming from any of the revenue sources available to the  
32 district from the sources listed in chapter 298A, provided the  
33 expenditures are within the uses permitted for the revenue  
34 source. In addition, the use of the revenue source for  
35 preschool programming must have been approved prior to any

1 expenditure from the revenue source for the school district's  
2 preschool program.

3 c. Funding provided for the preschool program pursuant to  
4 this chapter is intended to supplement, not supplant, existing  
5 public funding for preschool programming.

6 d. Preschool scholarship funding shall not be commingled  
7 with the other state aid payments made under section 257.16  
8 to a school district and shall be accounted for by the school  
9 district separately from the other state aid payments.

10 Preschool scholarship payments made to school districts are  
11 miscellaneous income for purposes of chapter 257. A school  
12 district shall maintain a separate listing within its budget  
13 for preschool scholarship payments received and expenditures  
14 made. A school district shall certify to the department that  
15 preschool scholarship funding received by the school district  
16 was used to supplement, not supplant, moneys otherwise received  
17 and used by the school district for preschool programming.

18 e. Preschool scholarship funding shall not be used for the  
19 costs of constructing a facility in connection with a school  
20 district or private education partner preschool program.

21 f. Preschool scholarship funding received by a school  
22 district or private education partner may be used in  
23 conjunction with funding from family-paid tuition to support  
24 the school district or private education partner in providing  
25 the preschool program. Not more than five percent of the  
26 scholarship funding received annually by a school district  
27 shall be used for the costs of supervising the program.

28 2. *Eligible student enrollment.*

29 a. To be included as an eligible student in the preschool  
30 enrollment count by a school district, a child shall meet the  
31 requirements of section 256J.3, subsection 1, and shall be  
32 enrolled in and attending a preschool program implemented by  
33 a school district or a school district's private education  
34 partner.

35 b. The enrollment count for the preschool program shall

1 include all eligible children who are enrolled in and attending  
2 a preschool program implemented by a school district and the  
3 school district's private education partners shall be collected  
4 by the school district on the date prescribed in section 257.6  
5 and shall be certified to the department by the school district  
6 by October 15.

7 Sec. 13. NEW SECTION. 256J.5 State funding allocation —  
8 expenditure limitation.

9 1. *State funding.*

10 a. *Allocation formula.* For each fiscal year in which  
11 moneys are appropriated by the general assembly for purposes  
12 of the preschool program for four-year-old children, preschool  
13 scholarship funding shall be allocated to approved school  
14 districts on a per pupil basis calculated on the proportion  
15 that the number of the approved school district's first grade  
16 children who are eligible for free or reduced price meals under  
17 the federal Healthy, Hungry-Free Kids Act of 2010, Pub. L. No.  
18 111-296, multiplied by the average of the previous three years  
19 of certified kindergarten enrollment, bears to the sum of the  
20 number of first grade children in all approved school districts  
21 who are eligible for free or reduced price meals under the  
22 federal Healthy, Hungry-Free Kids Act of 2010, Pub. L. No.  
23 111-296, multiplied by the average of the previous three years  
24 of certified kindergarten enrollment in all approved school  
25 districts in the state for the base year.

26 b. *Redistribution of state funding.* Based on the October  
27 1 certified preschool enrollment count determined pursuant to  
28 section 256J.4, subsection 2, the department shall evaluate  
29 the needs of approved school districts and approved private  
30 education partners and shall take action to redistribute unused  
31 state funding as appropriate.

32 c. *Limited purpose.* State funds provided for purposes  
33 of this chapter shall not be expended for any purpose not  
34 expressly authorized in this chapter or in administrative rules  
35 adopted to administer this chapter.

1     2. *Program sites — conditional allocation.* A school  
2 district shall not receive preschool scholarship funding  
3 without school district or private education partner preschool  
4 program sites.

5     3. *Program continuation subject to approval.* For subsequent  
6 budget years, continuation of a school district's participation  
7 in the preschool program is subject to the approval of the  
8 department based upon the school district's compliance with  
9 accountability provisions and the department's on-site review  
10 of the school district's implementation of the preschool  
11 program.

12    4. *Insufficient funding.* If the amount appropriated  
13 annually for purposes of this section is not sufficient to  
14 pay the total allocation to approved school districts, the  
15 allocation shall be based on the proportion that the total  
16 allocation for each approved school district bears to the sum  
17 of the total allocations to all approved school districts.

18    5. *Payments to private education partners.* Reimbursements  
19 shall be provided to private education partners by approved  
20 school districts on a monthly basis, beginning with the month  
21 in which the school district receives payment under subsection  
22 1, paragraph "a", subparagraph (1), and ending in July, upon  
23 submission and verification of actual instructional costs  
24 incurred in the school year.

25    6. *Department administration and oversight.* Except as  
26 otherwise provided by law for a fiscal year, of the amount  
27 appropriated by the general assembly for a fiscal year for  
28 purposes of this chapter, the department may use an amount  
29 sufficient to fund up to four full-time equivalent positions  
30 which shall be in addition to the number of positions  
31 authorized for the department for the fiscal year to provide  
32 administration and oversight of the preschool program.  
33 Oversight shall include but not be limited to data collection  
34 requirements, maintenance of website listings of high-quality  
35 school district and private education partners providing

1 preschool programs, and assessment results.

2 7. *Open enrollment not applicable.* Section 282.18 shall not  
3 apply to preschool programs implemented under this chapter.  
4 However, approved programs shall be open to all eligible Iowa  
5 children, regardless of a child's district of residence.

6 8. *Participation in preschool not good cause.* Participation  
7 by a child in an approved preschool program under this chapter  
8 does not qualify as "good cause", as defined in section  
9 282.18, subsection 4, paragraph "b", for purposes of claiming  
10 continuous enrollment in a school district other than the  
11 district of residence.

12 Sec. 14. Section 272.2, Code 2011, is amended by adding the  
13 following new subsection:

14 NEW SUBSECTION. 19. Adopt rules establishing an early  
15 childhood certificate of eligibility for individuals who meet  
16 the requirements of section 256J.3, subsection 2, paragraph  
17 "a", subparagraph (2), for preschool teachers. The rules for  
18 obtaining such a certificate shall require that an applicant  
19 successfully complete twelve hours of coursework from an  
20 accredited institution of higher education in early childhood  
21 education, child development, elementary education, or  
22 early childhood special education, and this coursework shall  
23 encompass child development and learning of children from birth  
24 through kindergarten; family and community relationships;  
25 observing, documenting, and assessing young children; teaching  
26 and learning; and professional practices and development.

27 EXPLANATION

28 This bill establishes a preschool scholarship program for  
29 four-year-old children in new Code chapter 256J. The bill  
30 also repeals the statewide voluntary preschool program for  
31 four-year-old children in Code chapter 256C effective July 1,  
32 2011, along with the associated school aid funding provisions.

33 The bill is organized in two divisions. Division I provides  
34 for the repeal of the statewide voluntary preschool program and  
35 makes conforming changes.

1 Division II establishes a preschool program for  
2 four-year-old children in the department of education to  
3 provide an opportunity for all eligible children, including  
4 economically disadvantaged children, to enter school ready to  
5 learn. The purpose of the preschool scholarship program shall  
6 be to provide scholarships to pay for eligible four-year-old  
7 children to attend high-quality preschool provided by school  
8 districts or private education partners.

9 RULES. The state board of education is directed to adopt  
10 rules to implement the Code chapter and may adopt emergency  
11 rules as necessary to implement the Code chapter.

12 ELIGIBLE CHILDREN. A child who is a resident of Iowa and  
13 is four years of age on or before September 15 of a school  
14 year is eligible to enroll, based on order of registration,  
15 in a preschool program and may be eligible for a preschool  
16 scholarship. The scholarship amount is based upon the most  
17 current sliding tuition scale determined and published by the  
18 department. A school district approved to participate in the  
19 preschool program may enroll a younger child in the preschool  
20 program if space is available; however, the child shall not  
21 be counted in the preschool enrollment count for preschool  
22 scholarship funding purposes.

23 A family may choose to enroll the family's four-year-old  
24 child in an approved school district program or a preschool  
25 program implemented by a private education partner. Families  
26 must complete all enrollment requirements, including but not  
27 limited to income verification.

28 A school district or a private education partner of the  
29 school district may charge tuition for children participating  
30 in the program, but shall not charge more for tuition than  
31 the amount determined and published by the department. All  
32 families enrolling eligible children are required to pay  
33 tuition based on income and the most current sliding tuition  
34 scale determined and published by the department.

35 TEACHER REQUIREMENTS. An individual serving as a preschool

1 teacher in the program shall be employed by or under contract  
2 with the approved school district or by a private education  
3 partner located within the approved school district's  
4 boundaries and shall either be a licensed teacher who meets the  
5 requirements of the student achievement and teacher quality  
6 program; or shall possess, or be working toward obtaining  
7 within two years of starting employment as a preschool teacher,  
8 an early childhood certificate of eligibility issued under Code  
9 chapter 272, and either hold a bachelor's or graduate degree  
10 from an accredited college or university or hold an associate  
11 of arts degree and be working toward obtaining a bachelor's  
12 degree within three years. The provision relating to the  
13 associate degree, however, is repealed August 31, 2014.

14 EARLY CHILDHOOD CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY RULE

15 REQUIREMENTS. The bill requires the board of educational  
16 examiners to adopt rules establishing an early childhood  
17 certificate of eligibility. The rules shall require that  
18 an applicant successfully complete 12 hours of coursework  
19 from an accredited institution of higher education in early  
20 childhood education, child development, elementary education,  
21 or early childhood special education, and this coursework shall  
22 encompass child development and learning of children from birth  
23 through kindergarten; family and community relationships;  
24 observing, documenting, and assessing young children; teaching  
25 and learning; and professional practices and development.

26 Preschool teachers in an approved preschool program must  
27 collaborate with other agencies, organizations, and boards in  
28 the community to further the program's capacity to meet the  
29 diverse needs of the children and the families of the children,  
30 such as needs for early care, health, and human services. The  
31 approved preschool program shall work to maintain relationships  
32 with each child's family in order to enhance the child's  
33 development in all settings by collaborating with providers of  
34 parent education and family support opportunities.

35 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS — PROGRAM APPROVAL. The state board

1 must adopt rules to further define the preschool program  
2 requirements that are listed in the bill, which shall be used  
3 to determine whether or not a local program implemented by a  
4 school district or private education partner is approved.

5 SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS. School districts, under rules  
6 adopted by the state board, shall collect documentation of  
7 school district and private education partner readiness to meet  
8 program requirements, submit documentation to the department  
9 that demonstrates that the school district contacted all  
10 known private education partners within the school district,  
11 collaborate with all approved high-quality preschool program  
12 sites in the district to better serve children enrolled in the  
13 preschool program by extending the day through other state  
14 funding and federal funding and promoting family involvement  
15 through family support programs as well as district programs,  
16 participate in data collection and performance measurement  
17 processes and reporting, identify eligible children through  
18 targeted outreach to all families in partnership with the early  
19 childhood Iowa area board, collect information regarding and  
20 verify family income to implement the sliding tuition scale,  
21 address professional development for school district preschool  
22 teachers in the school district's professional development  
23 plan, collaborate with private education partners to provide  
24 a coordinated system of appropriate professional development  
25 for preschool teachers and staff, and pay only verified claims  
26 submitted by private education partners.

27 DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS. The department is required to  
28 implement an application and approval process for school  
29 district participation in the program; track the progress of  
30 children in the program and their performance in elementary  
31 and secondary education; implement procedures to monitor the  
32 quality of the programming at all program sites; determine  
33 a statewide comprehensive child assessment to measure child  
34 outcomes at all sites; submit an annual report to the governor,  
35 the general assembly, the early childhood Iowa state board, and

1 the child development coordinating council; develop a statewide  
2 list of approved preschool programs and publish the list on  
3 its website; and develop and review annually a sliding tuition  
4 scale for purposes of granting preschool program scholarships  
5 to families whose incomes are at or below 300 percent of the  
6 federal poverty level.

7 The early childhood Iowa state board and the child  
8 development coordinating council must advise the department  
9 regarding collaboration of high-quality preschool programs  
10 for eligible children; the early childhood Iowa state board  
11 must promote the preschool program in local community areas  
12 to increase family awareness of quality preschool programs  
13 and scholarship opportunities; and the early childhood Iowa  
14 area boards shall collaborate with school districts and their  
15 private education partners to strengthen preschool quality.

16 FUNDING PROVISIONS. State funding provided for preschool  
17 scholarships shall be allocated to school districts based upon  
18 the amount appropriated and the funding formula set forth in  
19 the bill.

20 Except as otherwise provided in statute, a school district  
21 may authorize expenditures for its preschool programming from  
22 any of the revenue sources available to the district from  
23 the sources listed in Code chapter 298A, which includes the  
24 physical plant and equipment levy fund, the student nutrition  
25 fund, and the capital projects fund, among other funds.  
26 However, preschool scholarship funding shall not be used for  
27 the costs of constructing a facility in connection with a  
28 school district or private education partner preschool program.

29 Not more than 5 percent of the scholarship funding received  
30 annually by a school district shall be used for the costs of  
31 supervising the program.

32 The enrollment count for the preschool program shall include  
33 all eligible children who are enrolled in and attending a  
34 preschool program implemented by a school district and the  
35 private education partners on October 1 or the first Monday in

1 October if October 1 falls on a Saturday or Sunday. The school  
2 district must collect the counts and certify the counts to the  
3 department by October 15.

4 STATE FUNDING — ALLOCATION AND REDISTRIBUTION. For each  
5 fiscal year in which the general assembly appropriates moneys  
6 for purposes of the preschool program for four-year-old  
7 children, scholarship funding shall be allocated to approved  
8 school districts on a per pupil basis calculated on the  
9 proportion that the number of the school district's first  
10 grade children who are eligible for free or reduced price  
11 meals, multiplied by the average of the previous three years  
12 of certified kindergarten enrollment, bears to the sum of the  
13 number of first grade children in all approved school districts  
14 who are eligible for free or reduced price meals, multiplied  
15 by the average of the previous three years of certified  
16 kindergarten enrollment in all approved school districts in the  
17 state for the base year.

18 Based on the October 1 certified preschool count, the  
19 department shall evaluate the needs of approved school  
20 districts and approved private education partners and  
21 shall take action to redistribute unused state funding as  
22 appropriate.

23 No district shall receive preschool scholarship payments  
24 without school district or private education partner preschool  
25 program sites.

26 For subsequent budget years, continuation of a school  
27 district's participation in the preschool program is subject to  
28 the approval of the department based upon the school district's  
29 compliance with accountability provisions and the department's  
30 on-site review of the school district's implementation of the  
31 preschool program.

32 State funds provided for the preschool scholarship program  
33 shall not be expended for any purpose not expressly authorized  
34 by statute or administrative rule.

35 INSUFFICIENT FUNDING. If funds appropriated by the general

1 assembly are not sufficient to pay the total allocation to  
2 eligible school districts, the allocation shall be based on the  
3 proportion that the total allocation for each school district  
4 bears to the sum of the total allocations to all school  
5 districts.

6 PAYMENTS TO PRIVATE EDUCATION PARTNERS. Reimbursements  
7 shall be provided to private education partners by approved  
8 school districts on a monthly basis upon submission and  
9 verification of actual instructional costs incurred in the  
10 fiscal year.

11 DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION AND OVERSIGHT. Of the amount  
12 appropriated for purposes of Code chapter 256J for a fiscal  
13 year, the department is authorized to use an amount sufficient  
14 to fund up to four full-time equivalent positions which shall  
15 be in addition to the number of positions authorized for the  
16 department for the fiscal year to provide administration and  
17 oversight of the preschool program.

18 OPEN ENROLLMENT NOT APPLICABLE. Code section 282.18,  
19 relating to open enrollment, shall not apply to preschool  
20 programs. However, approved programs shall be open to all  
21 eligible Iowa children, regardless of a child's district of  
22 residence.

23 PARTICIPATION IN PRESCHOOL NOT GOOD CAUSE. Participation by  
24 a child in an approved preschool program does not qualify as  
25 "good cause", for purposes of claiming continuous enrollment in  
26 a school district other than the district of residence.